White-washing in CPWD colony

*391. SHRI MANGALA KISAN: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that CPWD colony, Vasant Vihar, has a shabby appearance, in comparison to the R.K. Puram quarters, from outside;

(b) whether this is due to the apathy of concerned CPWD officials; if so, the details and the action proposed against them;

(c) the date, last time, when the type-III quarters of this colony were whitewashed from outside and when the next white-washing is scheduled; and

(d) by when this colony would look like the colony of R.K. Puram and the steps taken for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) to (d) Some houses in R.K. Puram had been upgraded for aesthetic improvement. No such upgradation has been undertaken in respect of Vasant Vihar houses due to paucity of funds. As such appearance of Vasant Vihar houses does not look as good as upgraded houses of R.K. Puram.

28 blocks of type-III houses in Vasant Vihar were white/colour washed last during 2006-07. Upgradation of 30 blocks of Type-III quarters which includes special repairs as well as aesthetic improvement, has been undertaken during the current financial year. The remaining blocks would be taken up in subsequent financial years subject to availability of funds.

Surrender of licence

*392. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision for surrender of licence and refund of entry fee paid by the telecom operators in case a telecom operator wishes to opt out of certain circles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any company has opted for surrender of licence in the past;

(d) if so, the name of the company and response of Government in this regard;

(e) the status of private operators who have been issued Letter of Intent (LOI); and

(f) the time-frame by which they can operate their services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) In the event of opting out of certain service areas by a telecom operator, access service licence can be surrendered for those service areas as per provisions of licence agreement. The paid entry fee by the operator is not refundable.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) M/s Bharti Infotel Ltd. has opted for surrender of Basic Service Licence for Delhi, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh service areas. The request of the company to surrender the licences was accepted and the paid entry fee was not refunded.

(e) All the Letter of Intents (LOIs) issued for grant of Unified Access Services (UAS) Licence except five service areas of one company have been converted into Licence Agreements on fulfillment of conditions stipulated in the LOI.

(f) The licensee can operate their services during validity of the licence which is 20 years from the effective date of licence unless revoked earlier. Further, the licensor may extend, if deemed expedient, the period of licence by 10 years at one time, upon request of the licensee.

Setting up of University for PIOs

*393. DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up a University for Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs);

(b) if so, whether Government has taken a final decision on the issue;

(c) if so, the details regarding admissions, disciplines and fee structure of the University; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The task of setting up the first PIO/NRI university at Bangaluru has been entrusted to the Manipal Academy of Higher Education Trust (MAHET).

Expressions of Interest for setting up four more universities at places other than Banguluru have been invited.

(c) and (d) The Universities would be multi-disciplinary and shall offer courses in areas like Medical Sciences, Dental, Engineering and Technology, Information Technology, Business Administration, Management, Bio-technology and Bio-Informatics etc. 50% seats shall be reserved for PIO/NRI students. An Advisory Board, with representation in it from all concerned Ministries and Departments, as also bodies like the UGC, MCI, AICTE, etc. is charged with the responsibility of examining other aspects in the light of the established practice and the guidelines issued by the Supreme Court.

Discontinuation of power generation

†*394. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.